

In the Claims:

- 1-15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a thermopolymer composition for use in surgery, comprising the steps of:
- selecting a thermopolymer matrix from a group consisting of gutta percha, balata and polyisoprene, or any mixture thereof;
 - selecting a dispersion compound comprising at least one of titanium and gold;
 - combining the thermopolymer matrix and the dispersion compound to form a thermopolymer composition; and
 - sterilizing said thermopolymer composition.
17. (Original) The method defined in claim 16, wherein the step of sterilizing said thermopolymer composition is accomplished through the use of gamma irradiation.
18. (Original) The method defined in claim 17, wherein the gamma irradiation is applied to the thermopolymer composition in the range of between 25 and 40 kiloGray.
19. (Original) The method defined in claim 16, further comprising the step of:
- including in the composition an additive selected from a group consisting of a wax and a resin, and any mixtures thereof, to facilitate flow of the composition.
20. (Original) The method defined in claim 16, wherein the composition is stored in at least one of a compressible tube and a syringe.
21. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said dispersion compound is less than 50 percent by weight of the composition.

22. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the dispersion compound comprises titanium particles forming at least 1 percent by weight of the composition.
23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the dispersion compound comprises titanium particles forming from 20 to 50 percent by weight of the composition.
24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the titanium particles are less than about 20 microns in size.
25. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the dispersion compound comprises elongate titanium whiskers.
26. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
 - combining a zinc additive and said composition such that said zinc additive comprises up to 10 percent by weight of the composition.
27. (New) A method of providing a thermopolymer composition for use during surgery, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a thermopolymer matrix from a group consisting of gutta percha, balata and polyisoprene, or any mixture thereof;
 - combining said thermopolymer matrix and gold to form a thermopolymer composition; and
 - sterilizing said thermopolymer composition.
28. (New) The method defined in claim 27, wherein the step of sterilizing said thermopolymer composition is accomplished through gamma irradiation.
29. (New) The method defined in claim 28, wherein the gamma irradiation is applied to the thermopolymer composition in the range of between 25 and 40 kiloGray.

30. (New) The method defined in claim 27, further comprising:
combining said thermopolymer composition and an additive selected from a group consisting of a wax and a resin, and any mixtures thereof, to facilitate flow of the composition.
31. (New) The method defined in claim 27, wherein said thermopolymer composition is stored in at least one of a compressible tube and a syringe.
32. (New) The method defined in claim 27, wherein said gold is less than 50 percent by weight of the composition.
33. (New) A method of providing a thermopolymer composition for use during surgery, comprising the steps of:
combining gutta percha with gold to form a thermopolymer composition; and
sterilizing said thermopolymer composition.
34. (New) The method defined in claim 33, wherein the step of sterilizing said thermopolymer composition is accomplished through gamma irradiation.
35. (New) The method defined in claim 34, wherein the gamma irradiation is applied to the thermopolymer composition in the range of between 25 and 40 kiloGray.
36. (New) The method defined in claim 33, further comprising:
combining said thermopolymer composition and an additive selected from a group consisting of a wax and a resin, and any mixtures thereof, to facilitate flow of the composition.
37. (New) The method defined in claim 33, wherein said thermopolymer composition is stored in at least one of a compressible tube and a syringe.

38. (New) The method defined in claim 33, wherein said gold is less than 50 percent by weight of the composition.